The Citizen

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Visit will be the last before royals wed

By CATHERINE PYE

Kate and William's trip details announced

PRINCE William and Kate Middleton's last royal engagement before their wedding will take place in Blackburn and Darwen.

The full itinerary of the visit – first revealed in our sister paper the Lancashire Telegraph a fortnight ago – was announced yesterday.

As the climax to a series of tours leading up to their marriage on April 29, the couple will officially open the Darwen Aldridge Community Academy (DACA).

They will then view recreational activities in Witton Country Park, Blackburn, on Monday, April 11.

Prince William is visiting the park as Blackburn with Darwen Council has become the first borough in the country to sign up to the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge which aims to protect 2,012 outdoor recreational spaces.

The Prince will add his signature to the Deed of Dedication to protect Witton Country Park. He is also using the visit to launch the SkillForce Prince's Award, which aims to recognise the contribution that young people make to communities.

Coun Andy Kay, deputy leader of Blackburn with Darwen Council, said: "For this to be their last official engagement before they marry is quite a coup."

DACA principal Brendan Loughran said the visit would 'inspire pupils to aim even higher'.

The royal will also be given a tour of the academy which opened last September. Students, parents, governors, staff and local dignitaries will gather to see William unveil a plaque, and Miss Middleton will present a creative writing award.

At Witton Park, the couple will meet participants and trainers involved in a football skills training programme and see youngsters taking part in disabled cycling activities. Miss Middleton will be invited to start a 100-metre race and meet athletes and trainers.

It is expected the entire visit will last approximately two-and-a-half hours.

ITINERARY: Prince William and Kate Middleton will visit Witton Park and Darwen Academy

Family backing hospice appeal

The family of Peter Boardman who died in the East Lancashire Hospice, aged just 46, are urging people to get behind a Lancashire Telegraph campaign to raise £125,000 to build a new roof for the hospice.

STORY 4

BIG BALLERINAS

You won't find a single skinny dancer in the supersize Russian dance troupe The Big Ballet coming to King George's Hall, Blackburn, on Saturday.

STORY 11

'I won't be bullied'

A Muslim Miss Universe contestant, who was born in Blackburn, has said she will not be bullied out of the competition, despite receiving threats.

STORY 3

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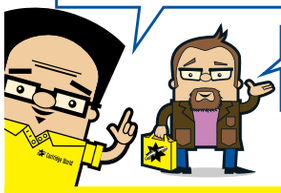

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Citizen In brief

Celebrity chef visit

Celebrity chef James Martin, right, will visit Accrington as part of this year's Lancashire Food Festival.

Mr Martin's visit will see him attend a meal prepared, and served, by North Lancs Training Group apprentices at their vocational centre of excellence, on Saturday, April 9. The following day he will perform three cookery demonstrations at the newly-opened Grange Lane centre, visit stall holders, and sign autographs at Accrington Town Hall.

Fun, by George!

The Black Dog pub, in Union Road, Oswaldtwistle, is encouraging customers to wear England colours at an all-day celebration on St George's Day, Saturday, April 23, from noon to 9pm. There will be live entertainment, competitions, and a screening of the 1966 World Cup.

The Citizen
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Shanna 'won't be bullied out'

By NEIL DOCKING

Miss Universe contestant defiant, despite threats

A Muslim Miss Universe contestant has said she will not be bullied out of the competition, despite receiving death threats.

Shanna Bukhari, 24, who was born in Blackburn, said she feared her life could be in danger after her decision to enter the British heats of the beauty pageant sparked a torrent of abuse online.

She is hoping to become the first Muslim woman to represent Great Britain at the competition, but said she has had to hire bodyguards after she received sinister threats.

She said she did not believe the beauty contest was at odds with her Muslim faith.

Miss Bukhari, who now lives in Manchester, said: "What these people are doing is using the fact that I am a Muslim as a tool to attack me with.

"They are saying I'm using my religion, but I'm not making a point of my religion at all, so that is contradictory."

The English literature graduate progressed through a semi-final stage of the Miss Universe Great Britain contest in February.

But a newspaper article discussing her bid to win the final in May, and go on to compete in Miss Universe in Brazil in September, led to hundreds of negative comments online.

She said: "I don't think anybody should be judged for entering a beauty contest and this competition doesn't define me as a person.

"I am receiving more support than abuse. I've received hundreds of emails of support every day."

Shanna said she was born in Blackburn and went to primary school in Clayton-le-Moors until the age of nine, before moving away.

Lord Patel of Blackburn said: "People have to remember that whatever she decides to do it is down to individual choice.

"Taking part in a beauty contest is not permitted by Islam, but it is her decision."

SUPPORT: Shanna Bukhari is hoping to become the first Muslim to represent Great Britain at the Miss Universe competition

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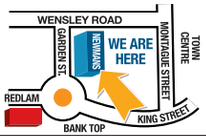

Bereaved family back hospice appeal

The family of a man who died in the East Lancashire Hospice, aged just 46, are urging people to support the charity's £125,000 roof appeal.

Peter Boardman, a father-of-two, died last month, eight months after he was diagnosed with terminal lung and bone cancer.

Mr Boardman's wife Nicola, 40, said the support he and their family received from staff at the hospice was 'fantastic'.

She said: "I cannot sing the praises of the place highly enough. It is a wonderful place and, on reflection, I do not know how we would have coped, or what we would have done, without it.

"It was a very, very difficult time for all of us, but everything that the hospice did was so important. It was there that he saw the Macmillan nurses. Nothing was too much for them.

"I would encourage anyone to support the hospice. You never know when it could be you, or someone in your family, that needs their support."

Our sister newspaper the Lancashire Telegraph has launched a fund-raising campaign to raise the cash for repairs to the 27-year-old building's roof.

'SO IMPORTANT': Nicola Boardman and daughters Talia, 12, and Claudia, nine, with pet Alfie, are urging people to support the campaign. Inset Peter Boardman

The hospice, in Park Lee Road, Blackburn, already needs to raise £2.8million each year to continue supporting people in Blackburn, Darwen, Hyndburn and the Ribble Valley who have terminal and life-threatening diseases.

But now, after almost three decades of wear and tear, the roof of the building has fallen into disrepair.

Staff are using buckets to collect water coming through the leaky structure, and damp patches are starting to form on the ceiling.

Mrs Boardman, who lives with their daughters Talia, 12, and Claudia, nine, in Feniscowles, Blackburn, has already raised £800 for the charity since her husband's death.

How you can donate

East Lancashire Hospice has introduced a new mobile phone text message donation service especially for this campaign. Here are the ways to donate:

- Text ROOF to 70700.
  Texts cost £5 plus network charge. East Lancashire Hospice receives at least £4.45. Obtain bill payers permission. Customer care 08448479800. Charity No 1075653.
- Alternatively you can donate online at www.eastlancshospice.org.uk/roof-appeal. Remember to add the word 'roof' in the comment section so it is clear the donation is for this appeal.
- You can make a payment at any Yorkshire Bank, Account No 22741541, Sort Code 05-02-52.
- You can send a cheque to Roof Appeal, East Lancashire Hospice, Park Lee Road, Blackburn, BB2 3NY.
- Or you could pay by debit, or credit card, over the telephone by ringing 01254 733410.

Sharon Crymble, the hospice's fundraising manager, said: "You can donate by any of the methods above, or why not hold a fundraising event in your school, workplace, shopping centre, or community group?"

If surplus funds are raised they will be used for the general purposes of the charity. To find out more about how you can get involved call the hospice fundraising department on 01254 733412.

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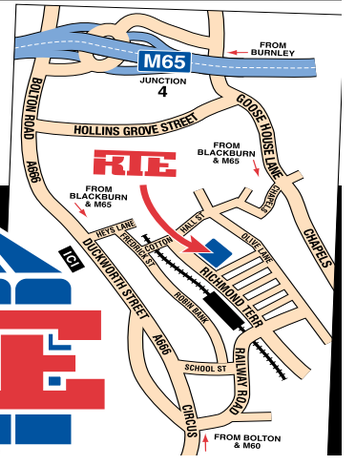

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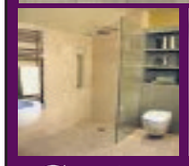

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Rural bus services set to be reduced

By TOM MOSELEY

Darwen is set to be hit by a string of bus cuts affecting the service to the hospital and rural routes.

Cash-strapped Blackburn with Darwen Council is reducing the subsidies it pays for public transport as part of spending cuts of £33million.

Bus operators will soon be formally notified about the town hall's plans – and if no alternative funding can be found, many will be scrapped, or scaled back.

The 15A and 15C services, which provide the town's direct link to Royal Blackburn Hospital, will be stopped at nights. The service was said to be barely used, with some buses running with just a single passenger.

Sunnyhurst councillor Dave Smith admitted: "There are hardly any people on some of these buses, but for those that do use them it's going to mean hardship."

He said there was simply not enough cash in the council's coffers to carry on subsidising the same number of services. The free bus to Darwen Health Centre is also set to be scrapped. A replacement service is expected to be put in place, but it will not be free, although pensioners will be able to use their free bus passes.

Rural services are the most affected because they tend to be less busy.

This means Hoddlesden, Chapeltown, Blackamoor and Tockholes will see a reduced service into Darwen town centre.

East Rural councillor Julie Slater said: "The residents are really worried, especially those who use the bus to get to work. They will be left with one bus an hour and that's nowhere near enough. It's ludicrous and I am not happy."

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Sporting open day

Coun Damian Talbot, above, is hoping to meet everyone who campaigned to keep Shadsworth Leisure Centre, Blackburn, open at a free open day of sporting activities, to be held on Saturday, between 10am and 4pm.

Planting appeal

Gifts of yoghurt pots and fruit trays are needed by a community food garden. The Accrington community food project, in Belfield Road and Rothwell Avenue, is requesting pots and trays for seedlings, as well as any spare seeds, or cuttings, as they begin spring planting. To help, call Katie Farnell on 07411266230.

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ROYAL DATE: Yaqoob Hussain is made an MBE by the Prince of Wales; and Purnima Tanuku is made an OBE

Worthies receive honours at palace

By **DAVID WATKINSON**

Two East Lancashire people have been honoured by Prince Charles.

Blackburn boxing coach Yaqoob Hussain was awarded an MBE, while charity boss Purnima Tanuku, from Langho, was given the OBE.

Mr Hussain, 56, helped train world champion boxers Amir Khan and Ricky Hatton, and has spent 37 years volunteering. He has been hailed an inspiration.

Mrs Tanuku is the chief executive of the National Day Nurseries Association and was awarded the OBE for services to families.

When his award was announced Mr Hussain said: "Volunteers often get absolutely no thanks for the work they do, so this is amazing.

"Getting the MBE is a fantastic honour and I am very proud."

Mr Hussain, who lives in the Audley area, is the Audley Amateur Boxing Club's head coach. He has also worked as a referee on a national level and has been involved for decades in the regional amateur boxing set-up.

Mr Hussain is manager at power company EON and married to Sakandra. They have four children, and five grandchildren.

Mrs Tanuku is the former managing director of Groundwork Pennine Lancashire and has been in her current role for five years. At the time of her award, she said: "You always read of other people getting these sorts of awards, but I never expected to get one myself."

Citizen In brief

Policing matters

The next Police and Communities Together meeting for Altham and Clayton-le-Moors residents is on April 6, in the Neighbourhood Management Office, Arthur Street, Clayton-le-Moors, at 6.30pm.

Restaurant plan

Plans have been put before Blackburn with Darwen Council to change the use of the Fountain pub, Accrington Road, Blackburn, to a restaurant, with an extension for a kitchen and living accommodation.

Scouts appeal

St Augustine's Scout Group, Huncoat, is looking for six to eight-year-olds to join the beaver section and eight to ten-year-olds for the cubs. To find out more, email donna@themetts.co.uk

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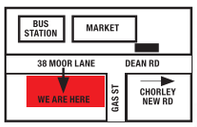

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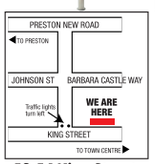

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CitizenTime

Sinead's found the human touch

Actress Sinead Keenan stars in BBC Three drama Being Human. She tells how the third series has been received by fans and the challenges of playing a werewolf.

60 SECONDS WITH ... SINEAD KEENAN

WERE YOU PLEASED WITH THE RESPONSE TO THE THIRD SERIES OF BEING HUMAN?

People seem to be saying it's the best one yet, which is always lovely to hear. I think that even when we were filming it, there was a feeling that we'd moved it up a gear - we had a new set so it looked great and the scripts were great. And it seems to have gone down really well, which is the main thing.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR CHARACTER FOR ANYONE WHO HASN'T SEEN THE SHOW?

I'd describe Nina as a bit like a sucky sweet. She's hard on the outside, but once you get into the centre, she's soft and warm. I'm lucky in the sense that often times you can play characters who are one note, but with Nina in one scene its comedy, and then 10 minutes later you're crying your eyes out. It's a gift of a part, and that's really down to the writers.

ARE THE SCENES WHERE YOU CHANGE INTO A WEREWOLF CHALLENGING TO FILM?

Challenging is one word - there's a few expletives I would also use. They are tricky days, but thankfully they are few and far between because the full moon only happens once a month, and also because in this series, there were four werewolves. Because of budgetary restrictions we can't all be transforming at the same time every episode, which is good, because you get to share the load with other people.

What's on

theatre

THE PRICE — Bolton Octagon, until Saturday, April 2.
THE DAY AFTER THE FAIR — Rossendale Players, New Millennium Theatre, Waterfoot, Thursday, March 31 to Saturday, April 2.
APRIL IN PARIS — The Lowry, Salford Quays, Thursday, March 31 to Saturday, April 2.
FUNNY MONEY — Blackburn Drama Club, Thwaites Empire Theatre, Thursday, March 31 to Saturday, April 2.
ONCE IN A HOUSE ON FIRE — The Lowry, Salford Quays, Thursday, March 31 to Saturday, April 2.
THE DEMOLITION MAN — Bolton Octagon, Thursday, April 7 to Saturday, May 7.

gigs

RUA MACMILLAN and EWAN ROBERTSON — Bury Met, Thursday, March 31.
ALAN PRICE — Bury Met, Thursday, March 31.
KYLIE — MEN Arena, Friday, April 1 to Monday, April 4.
NAS and DAMIAN MARLEY — Manchester Apollo, Saturday, April 2.
THE CHAIR — Bury Met, Saturday, April 2.
DANIEL O'DONNELL — The Lowry, Salford Quays, Sunday, April 3.
THE DAVID WAX MUSEUM — Bury Met, Wednesday, April 6.
ELKIE BROOKS — Burnley Mechanics, Saturday, April 9.

Big and beautiful ballet

The words big and ballet don't normally go together. But you won't find a single skinny dancer in the heavyweight Russian dance troupe coming to King George's Hall on Saturday. JEMMA HUMPHREYS found out more.

Ballerinas are traditionally about as petite as grown women can be.

So these dancers, from Russia, the home of ballet, may come as a bit of a surprise.

The Big Ballet troupe was established 16 years ago by renowned Russian choreographer Evgeny Panfilo to prove that big women can be beautiful dancers.

And the show's current producer Alexej Ignatow remains adamant that larger-sized ladies can perform, and move, as elegantly as their thinner counterparts.

He said: "This is not ballet as you know it. It's comedy. But it's not about laughing at the dancers, but with them.

"These women are, after all, the little girls who were told by their ballet teachers at the age of six that they were never going to make it, simply because of their size.

"This is a chance for them to live their dreams," said Ignatow, who led the Big Ballet troupe to win the top Golden Mask performing arts award in Russia.

● **THE BIG BALLET – King George's Hall, Blackburn, April 2. Tickets from the box office on 0844 847 1664.**

Cinema round-up

CHALET GIRL (12A) A tomboy skateboarding prodigy abandons the sport after tragedy and becomes an Alpine chalet attendant at an exclusive resort.

YOU WILL MEET A TALL DARK STRANGER (12A) Abandoned by her husband, Helena seeks guidance from a bogus clairvoyant.

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Where: Accrington and Rossendale College, situated behind the Hameldon Building at our Broad Oak Campus

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Sports Person's Dinner

(Over 18s only)

Date: Wednesday 13 April 2011 Time: 7pm for a 7:30pm start

Where: The Dunkenhalgh Hotel Cost: £30 each or £250 for a table of ten

Kevin Gallacher will be acting as guest speaker and the night will also include a three course meal, comedian and sporting memorabilia auction.

To book your FREE places for the celebrity football match or to book tickets for the Sports Person's Dinner, hosted at the Dunkenhalgh Hotel, contact Amy Haslam at Accrington and Rossendale College on: t_01254 354122 or e_ahaslam@accross.ac.uk

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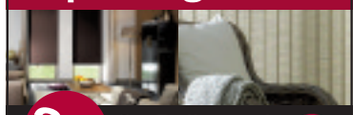

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Application forms available on **www.westoneu.com**
Closing Date: Friday 8th April 2011

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To advertise call us on **01254 54321**

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The job involves sorting leaflets in to accurately counted bundles in preparation for delivery to our distribution team on the Wirral. The role will involve an element of manual handling and full training will be provided.

The hours of work will be between 1pm until 5pm, although an element of flexibility may be required. The rate of pay for this position is calculated at £5.93per hour.

If you are interested in the above position which will be based at Newspaper House, High St, Blackburn, BB1 1HT,
please contact; Andy Jones,
Regional Warehouse Manager
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Closing date: 1st April 2011

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01254 274100 (option4)

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Applicants will need to be an experienced administrator with proven skills in Microsoft Office, good organisational skills and the ability to work alone.
This is a part time position (25 hours) working Monday - Friday 09.30 -15.00. Sympathy with the ethos and values of the Church of England is essential.
Further details and application packs are downloadable from www.blackburn.anglican.org or phone Vikki.Mcarthur on 01254 503088,
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Lancashire Telegraph pets at home where pets come first

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There are 4 different categories that you can enter your pet into: Cats, Dogs, Small Animals and, Reptiles.

If you have a much loved pet that you would like to become the Pet Idol of 2011, then visit the pet store listed below to have your pet photographed by a professional photographer.

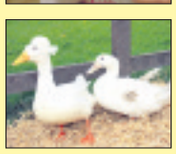
Pets at Home, Nova Scotia Retail Park, Blackburn
Saturday 2nd to Saturday 9th April
10am to 4pm

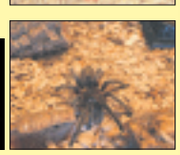
Three different photographs will be taken by DL images of your pet during the session. You will then be invited back to choose which one you would like to enter into the competition. All photographs that have been entered into the competition will be printed in paper and a public vote will decide the winner.

The winner will receive £250 to spend in the Pets at Home store and a 20x16 portrait of your pampered pet.

Pets at home offer great products, tips and advice to keep your pet happy and healthy, from pet food and toys to training aids. Pets at Home Blackburn has thousands of pet products in stock as well as a pet village, aquatics centre, reptile centre and a pet adoption centre.

Usual Newsquest Rules apply, please go to www.newsquest.co.uk/terms.





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06 (56) FORD TRANSIT CONNECT 1.8 DIESEL: 52,000 miles, gold, sliding door, cargo lining, roller roof rack ..... £3,999+VAT
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05 (05) FIAT DIABLO 1.9 DIESEL: 1 owner , FSH, 55,000 miles, silver £3,990
05 (05) FORD KA 1.3: 1 owner, silver, 18,000 miles £3,690
02 (52) FORD ESCORT 1.8 DIESEL VAN: only 20,000 miles, interior tool racking system, silver ..... £2,990+VAT
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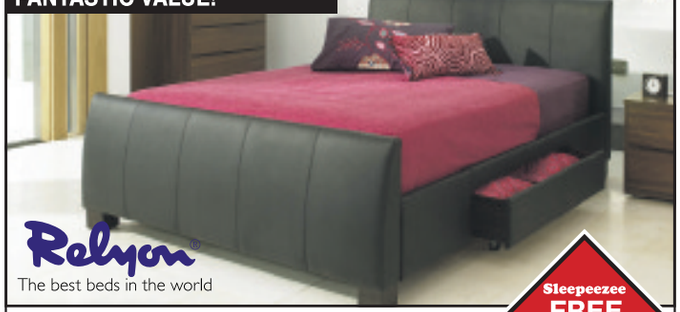

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